

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) In a system for providing wireless data communication using a first protocol, said system having an access point for conducting wireless data communications with mobile units using said first protocol, a method for conducting out of band management communications with said access point comprising providing said access point with a radio module operating according to a second wireless communications protocol, and conducting management communications with said access point using said second wireless communications protocol.
2. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said conducting management communications comprises at least one of configuring one or more resources of said access point and adjusting one or more parameters of said access point.
3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said first protocol is 802.11 Protocol and said second wireless communications protocol is Bluetooth.
4. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said conducting management communications includes authenticating said communications.
5. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said second wireless communications protocol is Bluetooth.

6. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein said conducting management communications includes associating said radio module as a slave unit.
7. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said conducting management communications includes authenticating said communications.
8. (Previously Amended) An access point for use in a wireless data communication system, comprising:
 - a first interface for conducting data communications with one or more computers;
 - a first radio module using a first protocol for transmitting wireless data messages received at said first interface and for receiving and relaying data messages via said first interface;
 - at least one processor connected to said first interface and said radio module for controlling said access point; and
 - a second radio module operating using a second wireless communications protocol, different from said first protocol, for providing wireless management communications.
9. (Previously Amended) The access point as specified in claim 8, wherein said second radio module is arranged to operate as a slave module using a master slave protocol.

10. (Previously Amended) The access point as specified in claim 8, wherein said second radio module is arranged to operate as a slave module using the Bluetooth protocol.
11. (Previously Amended) The access point as specified in claim 8 wherein said processor is further arranged to authenticate communications via said second radio module.
12. (Previously Added) An apparatus, comprising:
 - an interface; and
 - a processor communicatively coupled to the interface, the processor adapted to:
 - allow data communications with one or more remote devices over a first communications protocol; and
 - allow access to one or more management features of the apparatus over a second communications protocol, wherein the second communications protocol is a wireless protocol and is different from the first communications protocol.
13. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor is adapted to allow the data communications through a first radio module and to allow access to the management features through a second radio module.
14. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the second radio module operates as a slave unit at least during a portion of the time the access to the management features is allowed.

15. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor is further adapted to authenticate communications associated with the access of the management features.

16. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first communications protocol is 802.11 protocol and the second communications protocol is Bluetooth protocol.

17. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor is further adapted to allow monitoring of the data communications over the second communications protocol.

18. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said conducting management communications comprises at least one of updating system information of said access point, modifying system programming of said access point, and modifying communications parameters of said access point.

19. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising monitoring the data communications using said second wireless communications protocol.

20. (Previously Amended) The access point as specified in claim 8, wherein the processor further allows monitoring the data communications using said second wireless communications protocol.